

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title as follows:

QUALITY CONTROL AND SUPPORT METHOD FOR ANALYZER
~~CONTROL METHOD, AND DEVICE THEREFOR.~~

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, between lines 2 and 3:

-- This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/725,498, filed November 30,
2000. ^{PAT 6,629,060}

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

-- The present invention relates to quality control in, and technology for facilitating support of, analyzers. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18 with the following rewritten version:

-- In order to carry out external quality control, however, the same quality control substance has to be sent from a statistical tallying center to each facility; the quality control substance has to be assayed at each facility; those assay results ("sample data" hereinafter) have to be sent from each facility to the statistics center; and the sample data has to be tallied by the statistics center. This means that the facilities first learn of the external quality control results when the tally is sent back from the statistics center. From the time the quality control substance is sent out until the time the tally is returned routinely takes one to two months. Sometimes it is necessary to wait until the statistics center accumulates a set number of sample data returns. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 12 with the following rewritten version:

-- The processing unit 12 performs support process and QC process, using the user control database 14. The support process displays predetermined error log at the control device, making it possible to find the cause of the trouble. Fig. 8 through 11 show display